F.C.I. Network in West Bengal

519. SHRI GURDAS DAS GUPTA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the FCI has decided to withdraw its network from West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Legislation on Minimum Wages

520. PROF.C.LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of States which have yet to legislate wages for informal agricultural and construction sections;

(b) what is the range of minimum wages in the States which have legislated in this regard; and

(c) whether there are any State Governments which have updated the legislations on minimum wages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) to (c) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is applicable to the whole of India except the State of Sikkim. The minimum wages fixed by various States/Union Territories under the Minimum Wages Act for agricultural and construction workers may be seen in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLI, Annexure No. 39].

TV Relay Station in District Headquarters of Andhra Pradesh

521. PROF.C.LAKSHMANNA: SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts/district centres yet to be covered under T.V. transmission of LPT or other varieties in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) by when Government propose to cover all the districts under T.V. transmission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) and (b) Whereas all the 23 districts of Andhra Pradesh are covered by TV service, either wholly or partially, three district headquarter towns remain uncovered at present. These headquarter towns are also envisaged to be brought under TV coverage during the current financial year (1989-90) itself.

Short supply of special steel

522. PROF. C.LAKSHMANNA SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a short supply of special steel used in automobile industries;

(b) whether it is also a fact there is a foreign exchange drain due to the import of this category of special steel; and

(c) what steps are being taken to increase the production of this special steel indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Certain special steel used in automobile industry has since been developed indigenously in the public sector and the Steel Plants are in the process of augmenting its production.

Demands for modifications in Bachawat Wage Board Award

523. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURNAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Co-ordination Committee of newspaper and News Agency Employees organisation has submitted a memorandum to the P. M. demanding minor modifications in the Bachawat Wage Board Award and its early gazette notification for implementation ; and

(b) if so, the details and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHAN MALAVIYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The employees organisations are demanding revisions in the pay scales, H. R. A., C. C. A. and regrouping of certain categories of employees. The report of the Wage Board is under consideration.

Arrest of jute mill magnates in West Bengal

524. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Commissioner of Provident Funds has recently ordered arrest of same jute mill magnates in West Bengal who have not been depositing the workers contribution to PF after deduction from them;

(b) if so, the details of the persons arrested/prosecuted and the defalcated amount to be recovered, and

(c) what are the total outstanding dues on account of Provident Fund and ESI of Jute Mills as on 30th June 1989?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENDARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) On the basis of complaints filed by the provident fund authorities, the police is reported to have arrested three Directors of M/s Kanikinarrah Jute Mills, one Director of M/s North Brook Jute Co. Ltd. and the Chairman of M/s Baranagore Jute Factory on the 24th June, 1989 and on production before the Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate, bail was granted to four of the accused, while the Director of M/s North Brook Co. Ltd. was remanded to judicial custody upto 8-7-89. These three mills together are reported to be in arrears of about rupees one crore as on 31-3-89.

(c) According to available information, the following amount was in arrears from the jute mills as on 31-3-1989:—

(Rupees in crores)

(i) Provident fund dues .	86.96
(ii) ESI dues . . .	20.47